## **Contents**

Introduction Landing zones	9
Survivor shuffle	
Trauma writer	9
Trauma reader	19
	-7
Part I – Incoming	
Chapter 1	
Trauma-telling	27
The problem of seeing	27
The birth of trauma	29
Trauma-trouble	31
From hysteria to trauma neurosis	32
War trauma	33
PTSD and its discontents	36
Ever-present absences	38
Perpetrator trauma The shadow of My Lai	40 44
Chapter 2	
I-witnessing: If I Die in a Combat Zone	47
Documenting the combat zone	47
The quiet before the storm	50
The betrayal of self	52
The traumatic event	57
War is a laughing matter	60
The unwilling executioner It don't mean nothin'	61 63
it don't mean nothin	03
Chapter 3	
Counternarratives in Going After Cacciato	67
"Vues of Vietnam"	67
Counternarrative insurgency	70
Fear and loathing	73
"Debriefed by dreams"	79
Combat crisis as textual crisis	82



## Part II - Homecoming

Chapter 4	
"The illusion of aliveness" in The Things They Carried	8;
Narrative ruptures	8;
Stories about stories	89
Stories with 'a fancy spin'	92
The company of storytellers	96
Chapter 5	
Going to war with the (ideal) reader: The Things They Carried	105
The art of war	109
Chapter 6	
Trauma as palimpsest: In the Lake of the Woods	119
Traces and echoes	119
John Wade's big night out	122
The novel as hypothesis	125
The novel as evidence	127
The novel as amnesia	131
The novel as mystery	132
Conclusion	
"Spirits in the head"	135
Back in the world	135
A world of hurt	138
Leave no one behind	142
Bibliography	145
Primary Sources	145
Secondary Sources	146
Appendix	155
Diagnostic Criteria for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, DSM-5	
(2013: 271–72)	155